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E. 42nd St., New York
Murray Hill 5-0688-9

ard

ditor

Albert E. Kahn

ditorial Consultants

Prof. F. L. Schuman

Johannes Steel

Leland Stowe

Hendrik van Loon

Wythe Williams

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THE HOUR RECEIVES DEATH THREATS FOR URGING
SUPPRESSION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Coughlinite Letters, Vowing Violent Action If We Continue
Our Fight Against Nazi Mouthpiece, Are Turned Over by Us
to Department of Justice

The Hour has received a number of letters and telephone calls from self-proclaimed Coughlinites who threaten dire consequences unless we stop exposing the seditious drive by Social Justice to obstruct the nation's war effort and unless we silence our demand for the suppression of this Nazi propaganda organ. By no means the least impressive of the consequences promised us is that of assassination.

The large majority of the letters are anonymous, although their authors unanimously declare allegiance to Father Coughlin. We are turning over all the letters to the Department of Justice.

Background to Threat Campaign

On January 24, in an article entitled "Treason In Royal Oak," we called for the suppression of Social Justice. Reporting that this pseudo-religious pro-Nazi tabloid was spreading vicious propaganda aimed at undermining confidence in the United States Government, stirring up dissension and sabotaging the war effort, we stated: "Every propaganda device which may possibly aid the enemies of this nation is being employed by Father Coughlin's magazine. The Axis powers have reason to consider Social Justice as their most valuable fifth column agency in the United States. ... With the country at war, Father Coughlin's insidious pro-Nazi publication constitutes a greater danger than ever before to the American people. For this reason, The Hour urges that Social Justice be immediately suppressed and its files seized by the Department of Justice."

On March 2 Social Justice devoted an entire page to a furious denunciation of our proposal that government action be taken against Coughlin's treasonable propaganda work. Immediately following the appearance of this article in their fascist bible, Coughlinites throughout

the country began to bombard The Hour with letters threatening violent action unless we ceased attacking Royal Oak's Naziphile priest. A typical excerpt from one of the letters reads as follows:

"For the past several weeks, my attention has been called to your libelous remarks about our publication, Social Justice, ... This letter is to warn you to cease these un-American activities. OR ELSE."

"We Christian people of the United States are real Americans and we will not allow you Communistic Jews to bring your Communism to the United States and get away with it. ... It can and will happen here in the U.S. ... and unless you act American instead of following Stalin's Communism, I fear we will have to drive you out. If so Hitler's method was tame because I mark you as Number 1 for getting what few brains you have battered out. Take Warning Or Else."

Coughlin Desperate

The threatening letters received by The Hour are a reflection of Father Coughlin's desperation. He is keenly aware that a rapidly growing section of the American public is urging the government to put an end to the treasonable propaganda emanating from Royal Oak. The press throughout the country is calling for action against this key pro-Axis propagandist; and on March 30 the New York newspaper PM devoted its first ten pages to a vivid expose of the devious methods by which Coughlin is sabotaging the U. S. war effort.

Faced with this rising tide of public indignation, Father Coughlin blusters in the latest issue of his publication: "Social Justice is not on the defensive!" This very denial, repeated several times in the lead editorial, is indicative of the pro-Nazi priest's mounting anxiety, which is further evidenced in an article inciting his followers to take violent action in his behalf. Ranting at patriotic Americans who would put an end to his seditious activities, he declares:

"... do your worst; ban Social Justice — and then observe whether the tide of anti-Semitism in America fades out or flames from a prairie fire into an uncontrollable holocaust!

"The worst possible injustice that Social Justice could do to the Jews of America would be to discontinue publication of its own volition, seizing this opportunity to blame the Jews for our retirement. Were we to succumb to such a satanic temptation, the pogroms which crimsoned the soil of Europe would rank as a poor second to what would occur on the streets of New York."

Clearly the time has come for the Government of the United States to silence this key fifth columnist who is so desperately striving to disrupt the American people and to render aid to the Axis foe.

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BUCHKO WITH NAZIS

The Hour is informed that Monsignor Ivan Buchko, the Nazi-Ukrainian emissary who was forced to leave the United States as a result of our campaign exposing his fifth column work in this country (see The Hour for July 27, August 10, September 14 and 21, 1940, May 3, June 21 and November 29, 1941), is now serving Der Fuehrer in the Nazi-occupied section of the Ukraine. The present function of this Ukrainian traitor is to exhort the people of his native land to become loyal slaves to Hitler's "holy" regime. However, we are told that Buchko's progress, like that of the Nazi army, is in the wrong direction. It is not unlikely that this Hitler agent will meet the same fate as his fellow Ukrainian Quislings Nicholas Sciborsky and Senyk-Grybiwsky, who were shot by a patriotic Ukrainian last fall (see The Hour for October 25, 1941). It is interesting to note that Senyk-Grybiwsky was a correspondent for Svoboda, the pro-Nazi Ukrainian-language newspaper still published in Jersey City, N. J. The editor of this paper, Luke Myshula, was one of Buchko's most valued assistants, when Buchko was carrying out his Berlin-given assignment of coordinating fascist Ukrainian activity in the United States.

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CORRECTION ON CAPTAIN PATRICK SMITH

On December 21, 1940, The Hour carried a story entitled "Captain Smith's 'Timely Talks' On Asia," which was a reprint of the contents of an article appearing in the December 13, 1940 issue of China Information Service, official Chinese news bulletin published in Washington, D. C. This article had urged recipients of China Information Service to be on the alert for a Captain Patrick Smith. According to the bulletin Captain Smith was a "pro-Japanese lecturer" who, in an effort to gain a wider audience for his propaganda, was making a number of false claims in his promotion circulars. (We later referred to this item in our issue for January 31, 1942.)

The Hour is now in receipt of a letter from the individual who wrote the article in China Information Service. His letter states;

"A year or so ago you were contacted concerning Captain Patrick Smith. A chain of circumstantial evidence had convinced several people that he was a Japanese propaganda agent.

"The circumstantial evidence has since proven entirely erroneous and misleading and Captain Smith has been victimized by a situation beyond his control. Captain Smith is a loyal American with an outstanding World War I record. In his lectures to American audiences he has never been pro-Japanese or anti-Chinese as previously believed. I want to make it clear that his attitude has been fair from the beginning and his present attitude does not merely

represent an opportunistic change since December 7, 1941. I hope I have not caused Captain Smith too much difficulty but I am endeavoring now to undo the wrong which was done to him."

The Hour considers it a duty to bring the above letter to the attention of our readers and, since we reprinted the material from China Information Service, to join in apologizing to Captain Smith for the injustice done him.

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CONFIRMATION

On March 31 the New York press announced that Francesco Pantiatchi, editor of Corriere d'America, and Vincenzo Gioffre, a translator for Il Progresso Italo-Americano, had been arrested as enemy aliens by FBI agents and sent to detention quarters at Ellis Island. Both of the Italian-language newspapers mentioned are owned by Generoso Pope, wealthy Italian-American publisher who is president of the powerful Colonial Sand and Stone Company and a member of the Democratic National Committee.

As early as July 6, 1940, we carried our first of a series of articles exposing Pope's role as a fascist propagandist. In this first article, which was entitled, "Generoso Pope's Newspapers Spread Fascist Propaganda In America," we stated: "... these newspapers constantly reprint editorials written in Italy under the guidance of the Fascist Ministry of Propaganda. ... Mr. Pope's two papers are considered Italian papers by the Italian Government; Italian laws forbid Italian subjects to work as correspondents of foreign papers, yet the Rome office of Mr. Pope's papers is staffed with Italian subjects. Mussolini is well pleased with these two 'American' organs."

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with deep pleasure that we announce the return of Hendrik Willem van Loon to the editorial board of The Hour. Mr. van Loon was a member of the American Council Against Nazi Propaganda, which launched The Hour in April, 1939. He served as editorial consultant to this newsletter until ill health forced him to relinquish this post a few months ago. Despite the fact he is still under doctor's orders, Mr. van Loon -- with characteristic anti-fascist zeal -- has offered to rejoin us in our work of weeding out Axis henchmen in this country, who are now so frantically endeavoring to hamper the nation's war effort. We enthusiastically welcome the return to our ranks of Hendrik van Loon, doughty fighter for democracy.